John 21:1-18.

THEME:- <u>The Manifestation of Jesus.</u>

INTRO:- Events Leading up to It.
1. With Jesus for three years.
a/ learned to know Him as the Messiah.
b/ learned from Him the true conception of God's Kingdom.
2. The Sudden crushing of their hope.
a/ the death of their Master.
b/ in despair and unable to stand.
3. Their but partial recovery over the news of X's resurrection.

Five. Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, James, John.

A. The <u>Manifestation of Jesus to the Disciples.</u>

I. <u>The Disciples' fishing experience.</u>
1. Led by Peter to go fishing.
2. Their failureafter toiling all night.
3. The man on the shore at the break of day.
a/ the unrecognized Christ.
1. Not seen because not expected there.
2. Not seen because identified with common persons and things and interests.
3. The X of the Church or the X of the Common People which shall it be?
4. Christ directs them and they catch all the nets will hold.
a/ X knows more about ourselves and our business than we do.
b/He is the one qualified to direct.
1. Launch out into the deep--go for them!
2. In His Spirit.

II. <u>Christ breaks for them their fast.</u>

1. Not their food but His.
2. Not in organization and equipment and system but in Christ can we ever succeed.

B. Christ Manifests Himself to Peter.

I. Peter leaves all and runs to Jesus.

1. The significance of this act to Jesus.
2. Jesus first lets Peter calm down.

II. Peter Established in Christ.

1. Christ's First Question and Answer.
   a/ Simon, son of John, lovest thou memore than these?
      1. Has your conduct been due to forgetfulness and thotlessness and do you really love me, or has it been due to deliberate and habitual going in the ways contrary to the Master's desire?
   2. Yea Lord, thou knowest that I love thee.
      a/ at heart Peter really did love Christ.
      b/ Can we say the same?
   b/ Feed my lambs!
      a/ "no mere sentimental, unfruitful compassion, but a consuming, commanding, unconquerable love that compelled Him to devote Himself to men and to do them all the good in His power" was the love of Jesus.
      b/ our love must be like His if we truly love Jesus.

2. Christ's Second Question and Answer.
   a/ Simon, son of John, lovest thou me?
      1. The second questioning to make sure. A vital question.
         a/ Our Lord, about to depart, left all upon the love of His disciples for Him.
         b/ Not upon church organization or creeds or theological conception of God's truth, but upon Love.
         c/ Can we truly express our relationship to Christ in that one word "Love"?
      2. Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee.
      3. Feed my sheep.
         Love is enough not only to save the apostles but also the whole world!

3. Christ's Third Question and Answer.
   a/